

A NEW SYNONYM IN *HYDROPTILA* (TRICHOPTERA: HYDROPTILIDAE)¹

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A recent status survey in Tennessee of *Hydroptila decia* Etnier and Way (1973) for possible protection under the Endangered Species Act prompted the examination of a similar species, *H. choco loco* Harris (1985) from northern Alabama (Etnier 1993). *Hydroptila decia* is known from Ten-Mile Creek, the type locality, and Fourth Creek in western Knox County, Tennessee while *H. choco loco* is recorded from Choco loco Creek, Calhoun County, the type locality, and Little Coon Creek, Jackson County, Alabama (Harris 1991). A comparison of paratypes of *H. decia* with those of *H. choco loco* found only minor differences and the species are thus determined to be synonyms, with *H. decia* having priority.

Apparent differences in the ventral view of the inferior appendages and subgenital plate in the original descriptions are attributed to the orientation of the drawings; *H. decia* being turned somewhat caudoventrally. What appear to be differences in the shape of the posterior margin of the tenth tergum presumably resulted from slightly different clearing methodologies. The holotypes of both species are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

LITERATURE CITED

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